

Remarks

Reconsideration and reexamination of the above-identified patent application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-29 are pending in this application upon entry of this Amendment. In this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added.

In the Office Action mailed May 2, 2006, claims 16-29 were allowed. However, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 15 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,865,047 issued to Maekawa et al. ("Maekawa"). Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,702,215 issued to Stamm et al. ("Stamm"). Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0011012 by Hino et al. ("Hino"). Additionally, claims 4 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maekawa or Stamm or Hino.

Claim Rejections Based On 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Amended independent claim 1 recites, among other limitations, "wherein the flexible antenna receives radio frequency signals from a transmitting antenna and a detection of a decrease in amplitude at the transmitting antenna indicates the presence of the memory device...." Applicants submit that neither Maekawa, Stamm, or Hino disclose, disclose, teach, or suggest the foregoing limitation.

Particularly, Maekawa discloses a tape cartridge having a Memory In Cassette (MIC), which serves as a non-contact memory module. (Abstract and Col. 12, lines 39-42 of Maekawa.) However, Maekawa does not disclose, teach or suggest detecting a decrease in amplitude at a transmitting antenna. Stamm discloses a tape cartridge including a repositionable memory element. (Abstract of Stamm.) Nevertheless, Stamm does not disclose, teach or suggest detecting the amplitude at a transmitting antenna. Regarding Hino, it teaches a non-contact integrated circuit (IC) module having an IC chip mounted on a flexible sheet. According to Hino, a radio communication antenna may be formed on the sheet and connected to the IC chip. (Par. [0070] of Hino.) However, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion

of detecting a decrease in amplitude at a transmitting antenna, wherein the decrease in amplitude indicates the presence of a memory device. Thus, each and every limitation of amended independent claim 1 is not taught by the cited references. Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited references and Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection. For at least the foregoing reasons, amended independent claim 8 and original independent claim 15 are also patentable over the cited references. As such, their respective dependent claims including dependent claims 2-7, 9-14 are likewise patentable over the cited references.

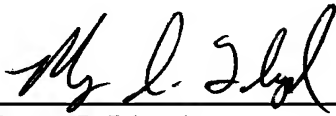
Regarding dependent claims 6 and 13, they are also patentable over the cited art for at least the following additional reasons. Dependent claims 6 and 13 recite "wherein the transmitting antenna is connected to a hand held reader." Neither Maekawa, Stamm, or Hino disclose or teach the foregoing limitation. Rather, the cited references disclose transmission of signals from non-hand held devices to an antenna.

Particularly, Maekawa discloses that a remote memory interface 81 transmits signals to a MIC31. The remote interface 81, as described in Maekawa, is not disclosed as a hand held reader. (Col. 16, lines 45-49; Col. 17, lines 57-59; and Col. 20, lines 29-30 of Maekawa.) Stamm discloses the transmission of signals from a cartridge to a tape drive. The tape drive in Stamm does not teach or suggest a hand held reader. (Col. 9, lines 53-55; col. 10, lines 4-7; col. 10, lines 32-34 of Stamm.) Additionally, Hino does not disclose the transmission of signals to an antenna through the use of a hand held reader. As such, for at least the above additional reasons, dependent claims 6 and 13 are patentable over the cited art.

Conclusion

In summary, claims 1-29 meet the substantive requirements for patentability. The case is in appropriate condition for allowance. Accordingly, such action is respectfully requested. If a telephone or video conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a question is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

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